

Mapping Groundfish Distributions in Port Townsend Bay: A Review of 30 Years Data

Barbara Nightingale
Biomes

Abstract

Pacific cod and other groundfish have been studied in Port Townsend Bay for over 30 years. This report reviews data collected, processed, and mapped on those populations. Maps of population distributions and abundances for each species, based on demersal trawls by Norris from 1991 to 2000, will be presented along with reports on beach seine data on juveniles collected by the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. The beach seine data provides insight into the distribution of juvenile groundfish and salmon in Port Townsend Bay over the past five years. Included in the review are the findings of Port Townsend Bay studies of Pacific cod by Karp in 1977 and Pacific cod, walleye pollock, and Pacific tom cod by Walters in 1984. The mapped results display consistent locations that appear to be species-specific and life-history specific. Thirty species have been mapped for Port Townsend Bay. These include Pacific cod, Pacific tomcod, Snake pricklyback, Pacific staghorn sculpin, greenling, flounder, dogfish, lingcod, English sole, Walleye pollock, Pacific sanddab, skate, Pacific herring, shiner perch, blackbelly eelpout, flathead sole, spotted ratfish, and Blackbelly eelpout.